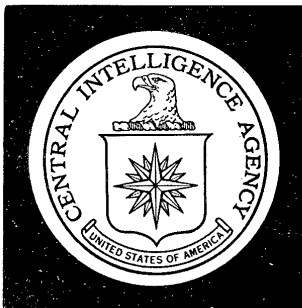




The President's Daily Brief

23 December 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Poland is ready for political negotiations with West Germany. *(Page 1)*

Libyan and Sudanese leaders are eager for some kind of union with Egypt, but Nasir is cautious. *(Page 2)*

Communist China is releasing some foreigners, holding others. *(Page 3)*

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POLAND - WEST GERMANY

After four weeks of study, Warsaw has responded to Bonn's call for political negotiations.

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The Poles have ignored the sensitivities of the East Germans, who believe border recognition is unnecessary and a slight to their sovereignty. In a speech last week, party boss Ulbricht reminded the Poles that the Zgorzelec treaty between Poland and East Germany established the Oder-Neisse line as the border in 1950. Ulbricht's subsequent demarche to West German President Heinemann calling for talks on outstanding issues, including recognition of the Oder-Neisse line, probably was intended to undercut the Poles on this issue.

Warsaw and Bonn are already talking of economic matters. This is another factor that may rankle the East Germans, whose special Interzonal Trade Agreement now gives them certain advantages in trade with West Germany not enjoyed by other Eastern European countries.

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ARAB STATES

Nasir, Qaddafi of Libya, and Numayri of Sudan are to meet in Tripoli after the Arab summit to discuss some form of union. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the meeting is being held at the request of the Libyans and the Sudanese.

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With traditional Arab radicals such as Algeria losing their enthusiasm, the new military regimes in Tripoli and Khartoum have become the most active advocates of Arab militancy and unity. Their current efforts are likely to get pro forma support and not much else from Egypt, which has been wary of such schemes since its "union" with Syria between 1958 and 1961. Cairo will be willing to discuss economic and military cooperation, but not even the prospect of more direct access to Libya's oil revenues is likely to lure it into union with its inexperienced and unstable neighbors.

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NOTES

Communist China: On 20 December, Peking announced the release of a prominent Japanese journalist who had been detained for 18 months under suspicion of espionage. Since the release of Reuters correspondent Anthony Grey last October, Peking has acted on several similar cases. Thus far, six British citizens, six Japanese, seven Germans, and two Americans have been freed. The Chinese appear to be making a distinction between aliens they believe have engaged in serious espionage and those who have allegedly committed minor offenses or were victims of the antiforeign feeling of the past three years. On 22 October, for example, Peking announced that a German technician accused of being a US spy had been sentenced to ten years in prison.

South China Sea: Analysis of additional data from overseas seismic stations indicates that the underwater disturbance south of Hainan Island on 19 December was an earthquake. This suggests that the seismic event in that area on 17 December, for which less information was available, probably was also an earthquake. If the Chinese had set off an explosion so near international shipping lanes, they probably would have restricted the area to all shipping. The Chinese are showing concern over the possibility of additional earthquakes, and they are warning the coastal regions and fishing craft of the possibility of tidal waves.

Peru: The controversial investment contract between the Velasco government and the US-owned Southern Peru Copper Company was signed Friday. A high official of the company told the US ambassador that the firm still must find financing for about \$200 million of the \$355-million project, but he claimed this could be done easily in Europe, Japan, or the US.

USSR: Key space support ships have moved out of their monitoring positions, indicating that Soviet plans for an unmanned lunar mission this month have been abandoned. Continuing problems with the SL-12 space booster are probably a major reason.

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